

PATENT

DOCKET NO.: BELL-0008/99157
Application No.: 09/474,404
Office Action Dated: April 25, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The foregoing Amendment and the following Remarks are being submitted in response to the Office Action issued on April 25, 2003 (Paper No. 6) in connection with the above-identified patent application, and are being filed within the three-month shortened statutory period set for a response by the Office Action.

Claims 1 and 3-6 are pending in the present application, and stand rejected. Claims 2 and 7 have been canceled and the subject matter thereof has been incorporated into independent claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added to the application by the Amendment.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 3-6 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bernard (U.S. Patent No. 5,497,339). Applicants respectfully traverse the § 102(b) rejection of such claims.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of now-canceled dependent claim 7 therein. Inasmuch as such claim 7 was not rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Bernard reference, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is now unanticipated by such Bernard reference. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 5 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kiuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,324,380). Applicants respectfully traverse the § 102(e) rejection of such claims.

Independent claim 1 has also been amended to include the subject matter of now-canceled dependent claim 2 therein. Inasmuch as such claim 2 was not rejected under § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Kiuchi reference, Applicants respectfully submit that claim

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1 is now unanticipated by such Kiuchi reference. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 as amended is not obvious in view of some combination of the Bernard and Kiuchi references. In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 recites a cradle that couples a personal communications device (PCD) to a second communications network when the PCD is out of normal radio communication with a first network, where the second network is employed to establish a link between the PCD and the first network. In contrast, the Bernard reference only teaches coupling a PCD to a communications network, where such PCD is not normally in communication with any other network; and the Kiuchi reference teaches coupling a cell phone or the like normally in communication with a cellular network to a satellite network, but does not teach that the satellite network is employed to establish a link between the cell phone and the cellular network by way of the satellite network. Accordingly, neither reference alone or combined contemplates the spirit and purpose of the cradle of the present invention as recited in claim 1, and therefore such references cannot be combined to make obvious claim 1 or any claims depending therefrom.

In view of the foregoing Amendment and Remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1 and 3-6, is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

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